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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 14th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan for the period of 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 15)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions and for the important role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the region. It was noted with appreciation that the reformulated programme was more focused and result-oriented and that higher priority was given to poverty reduction and to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS.

4. The view was expressed that ESCAP's reorganization was a welcome and necessary exercise, and appreciation was expressed for the series of

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intergovernmental consultations and extensive informal consultations with Member States which had been undertaken in the course of that exercise.

5. Although it was recognized that, in general, the revised indicators had been improved compared to the original ones, the view was also expressed that further efforts should be made to identify more appropriate indicators which should clearly connect to expected accomplishments and the outcome of the work of ESCAP.

6. The view was expressed that references to the least developed countries should have been included in each subprogramme and not only in subprogrammes 1 and 4.

7. It was suggested that reference to South-South cooperation and to the outcome of the Havana Summit be carefully articulated under the strategy, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

8. The view was expressed that ESCAP should continue to reform its programmes and practices to make them more demand-driven and interactive.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:

Throughout the text

Replace the words "poverty reduction" with the words "poverty eradication" throughout the text of the programme.

Paragraph 15.1

In the second sentence, after the words "that allow them", insert the words "while minimizing the adverse impacts of globalization".

[Paragraph 15.3

– In the first sentence, replace the words "emerging social issues" with the words "social issues".]

– At the end of the fourth sentence, after the words "economic, social and environmental areas", add the words "as well as on matters relating to human resource development".

[–In the penultimate sentence, replace the words "human security" with the words "humanity".]

Paragraph 15.5

In the first sentence, after the words "the special needs of", insert the words "developing countries, including".

Paragraph 15.8 (a)

After the words "poverty, population and the environment", insert the words "and economic growth".

Paragraph 15.8 (c)

Replace the words "poverty alleviation" with the words "poverty eradication".

Paragraph 15.9

- **In the first sentence, replace the words "economic and social position of the poor" with the words "economic and social condition of the poor".**
- **In the second sentence, after the words "special attention to reducing poverty", insert the words "in the developing countries, particularly".**
- **At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and the Declaration of Havana (South Summit of the Group of 77, 2000)"**

Paragraph 15.10 (a)

Replace the words "recognition of ESCAP as a think tank with a thorough understanding of" with the words "enhanced analytical, policy and operational capabilities of ESCAP as regards".

Paragraph 15.10 (b)

After the words "pro-poor", insert the words "economic growth".

Paragraph 15.10 (c)

Insert the word "facilitating" before the words "enhanced regional cooperation".

Paragraph 15.11 (a)

Replace the words "the view of members and associate members" with the words "satisfaction of Member States".

Paragraph 15.11 (b)

Insert the words "inter alia" between the words "associate members" and the words "in response to".

Paragraph 15.11 (c)

Replace paragraph 15.11 (c) with the following: "the number of pilot projects implemented, adopted and replicated in the region, on the basis of best practices in poverty eradication".

Paragraph 15.12

- **Replace the words "to generate poverty data and measure progress towards the millennium development goals" with the words "to collate and utilize sectoral data, particularly relating to poverty, and measure progress towards development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration".**

– After the words "progress towards", insert the words "mobilizing international, regional and national resources in achieving".

Paragraph 15.13 (b)

After the words "policy formulation", insert the words "resource mobilization".

Paragraph 15.13 (f)

After paragraph 15.13 (f), add a new subparagraph (g) as follows: "collect and disseminate statistical data on mobilizing international, regional and national resources for poverty eradication".

[Paragraph 15.15 (b)

[– Replace the word "especially" with the words "particularly in developing countries, including".]

[– Insert the words "the required resources and" after the word "including".]

Paragraph 15.15 (c)

After the word "collaboration", insert the words "in resource mobilization at the international, regional and national levels".

[Paragraph 15.16 (c)

Before the words "gender issues", insert the words "resource mobilization".

Paragraph 15.19 (d)

[–Delete the words "in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition".]

[–Delete the words "of central and local officials".]]

[Paragraph 15.20

Delete subparagraphs (b), (d) and (e).]

[Paragraph 15.20 (e)

After the words "the number of," insert the words "developing countries including".]

Paragraph 15.26

After the words "strategies that would enable them", insert the words "while minimizing the adverse impacts of globalization".

Paragraph 15.29 (d)

After the words "renewable energy development", add the words "and advanced fossil fuel technologies, where appropriate, and".

Paragraph 15.30 (d)

Replace paragraph 15.30 (d) with the following: "an increase, as appropriate, in the number of national renewable energy plans and advanced fossil fuel technologies plans introduced or improved, energy efficiency policies and measures introduced in energy-intensive establishment, and evidence of enhanced subregional energy cooperation".

[*Paragraph 15.31*

After the words "associate members", add the words "including the least developed countries of the region".]

Paragraph 15.33

At the end of the paragraph after the words "inter-sub-regional networking", add the words "inter alia, through South-South cooperation".

Subprogramme 7

[Revise title of subprogramme 7 to read "Social development".]

Paragraph 15.36

- **In the first sentence, after the word "manifestations", add the words "in order to enhance the productivity and quality of human resources".**
- **Replace the first bullet with the following: "Gender equality and mainstreaming and greater participation of marginalized social groups, especially the poor, women, youth, children, people with disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV/AIDS in the context of rapid socio-economic and demographic change".**

Paragraph 15.37 (c)

Replace the words "undertake policy analysis of emerging social issues" with the words "engage in social development planning".

Paragraphs 15.39 (d) and (e) and 15.40 (e)

[Replace the words "vulnerable groups" with the words "marginalized groups" (in order to be consistent with 15.5).]

Legislative mandates

Add the following General Assembly resolutions:

"52/194: Role of microcredit in poverty eradication" (subprogramme 1)

"55/182: International trade and development" (subprogramme 3)

"56/202: Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (subprogrammes 1 and 6)